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Proceedings of the Botanical Club of the A. A. A. S.

The first meeting of the Club for the year convened promptly, Thursday, Aug. 18, at 9 A. M. in a room well adapted to the purpose in the main building of Rochester University. An unusually large number of botanists were in attendance. In the absence of both the president, Prof. V. M. Spalding, and the vice-president, Dr. Stanley Coulter, Dr. H. H. Rusby was chosen to preside. The secretary, Mr. D. G. Fairchild, presented his report as treasurer, which was accepted. A contribution from those present, amounting to \$4.20, was made to cover the small deficit remaining on the books and to provide for future expenses.

Messrs. Hollick, Barnes and Coville were appointed a committee on nomination of officers for the next meeting. After announcements regarding excursions, a committee on nomenclature was appointed upon motion of Dr. Britton, consisting of Messrs. N. L. Britton, J. M. Coulter, H. H. Rusby, W. A. Kellerman, F. V. Coville, L. M. Underwood and L. F. Ward.

A paper read by Mr. F. V. Coville, mentioned again in the list of papers below, led to the appointment of a committee of three, F. V. Coville, W. J. Beal and B. E. Fernow, to consider the botanical use of the terms *range*, *locality*, *station* and *habitat*. After the reading of papers by Mr. Thos. Morong and Prof. L. M. Underwood, the Club adjourned.

THURSDAY, August 18, 1 P. M.:

Papers were read by Mr. F. B. Maxwell and Mr. W. F. Swingle, both of which led to prolonged discussions, after which the Club adjourned.

FRIDAY, August 19th, 9 A. M.:

The morning session opened with a paper by Mr. Morong upon asclepiadaceous insect traps.

Upon motion of Prof. Beal a vote of thanks was tendered to Dr. E. B. Southwick, botanist of the N. Y. Central Park, for his exhibit of 60 or more species of fruits and nuts, including their branches and leaves, freshly gathered from the park.

The Club has always taken a special interest in the Botanical Division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and in accordance with the custom of the Club, the president called upon Dr. Geo. Vasey, the Chief of the Division, to inform

the members in regard to the work now being prosecuted. He said that on account of diminished appropriations the work of the present season is somewhat restricted. The chief field work is in Idaho, by Messrs. Sandberg, Small and MacDougal. Over 53,000 specimens have already been received. The distribution of specimens to agricultural colleges continues. The economic and scientific publications of the Division will continue as heretofore. The third part of the flora of Texas, being prepared by Pres. J. M. Coulter, will be published in a few months. The stations for testing the economic value of native grasses in the arid regions, the first one established four years ago, have been partly abandoned for want of funds. The principal station is at Garden City, Colo., and embraces 160 acres, of which 25 acres are devoted to *Bromus inermis*, the most successful grass so far tried in the region. Other grasses are also grown in considerable quantities.

Dr. Britton, chairman of the committee, announced that the committee on nomenclature had a unanimous report to submit, which would soon be ready in printed form. It was made the order of business for 1 P. M.

The subject of a World's Congress of botanists next year was brought up by Dr. Arthur, who gave a brief account of the movement to have a congress under the auspices, and forming a part of the general scheme, of the World's Congress Auxiliary, an adjunct organization to the World's Columbian Exposition. A request for an opinion from the committee appointed by the Auxiliary regarding the feasibility of carrying out the plans already outlined, was answered by Dr. Arthur, who said that the committee were not sanguine of success. Dr. Barnes moved "that it is the sense of the Botanical Club of the A. A. A. S. that it is inexpedient to attempt to hold an International Congress in connection with the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in the summer of 1893," which was unanimously adopted.¹

The desirability of emphasizing in some way the next year's gathering of botanists was now brought forward by Dr. Arthur, and a committee of three members of the Club, Messrs.

¹It may be noted in this connection that the Section of Biology, F, subsequently passed the following:

Resolved, That this Section appoint as its committee the outgoing officers of Section F, and the incoming officers of Sections F and G, to confer and co-operate at their discretion with World's Congress Auxiliary.

J. C. Arthur, B. L. Robinson and T. H. McBride, was appointed to report to the Club at a later session in regard to the matter.

The morning session closed with a paper by Mr. O. F. Cook.

FRIDAY, August 19, 1 P. M.:

The committee on nomenclature presented its report in printed form, which was adopted, article by article, with only a few verbal changes, as follows:

Resolved, That the Paris code of 1867 be adopted except where it conflicts with the following recommendations:

I. *The Law of Priority*.—Priority of publication is to be regarded as the fundamental principle of botanical nomenclature.

II. *Beginning of Botanical Nomenclature*.—The botanical nomenclature of both genera and species is to begin with the publication of the first edition of Linnaeus' *Species Plantarum*, in 1753.

III. *Stability of Specific Names*.—In the transfer of a species to a genus other than the one under which it was first published the original specific name is to be retained, unless it is identical with the generic name or with a specific name previously used in that genus.

IV. *Homonyms*.—The publication of a generic name or a binomial invalidates the use of the same name for any subsequently published genus or species respectively.

V. *Publication of Genera*.—Publication of a genus consists only (1) in the distribution of a printed description of the genus named; (2) in the publication of the name of the genus and the citation of one or more previously published species as examples or types of the genus, with or without a diagnosis.

VI. *Publication of Species*.—Publication of a species consists only (1) in the distribution of a printed description of the species named; (2) in the publishing of a binomial, with reference to a previously published species as a type.

VII. *Similar Generic Names*.—Similar generic names are not to be rejected on account of slight differences, except in the spelling of the same word; for example *Apios* and *Apium* are to be retained, but of *Epidendrum* and *Epidendron*, *Asterocarpus* and *Astrocarpus*, the later is to be rejected.

VIII. *Citation of Authorities*.—In the case of a species which has been transferred from one genus to another the original author must always be cited in parenthesis, followed by the author of the new binomial.

N. L. BRITTON, JOHN M. COULTER, HENRY H. RUSBY, WILLIAM A. KELLERMAN, FREDERICK V. COVILLE, LUCIEN M. UNDERWOOD, LESTER F. WARD,

Committee.

The main discussion upon this report was under article VI in regard to the acceptance of named exsiccata not accompanied by a description as valid publication of a species, which was discussed by Messrs. Beal, Coulter, Vasey, Swingle, Bailey, Kellerman, Barnes, Fernow, Cook, Dudley, Morong, Britton, Underwood and Johnson. The motion to amend by including exsiccata was lost.

Dr. Britton moved that a permanent committee be appointed to serve as a board of arbitration, and to prepare and print a list of the flowering plants within the area of the sixth edition

of Gray's Manual in accordance with the recent report on nomenclature. It was subsequently agreed to extend the range to include Canada, Nebraska and Kansas. On motion of Dr. Arthur, the nomenclature committee was made the permanent committee for this purpose. A further motion was carried "that this committee be empowered to receive all suggestions and criticisms of this list, and to report upon them at the next year's meeting."

MONDAY, August 22d, 9 A. M.:

In absence of the acting president, Dr. H. L. Russell was called to the chair. The committee on nomination of officers for next year reported the names of Dr. W. P. Wilson of the University of Pennsylvania for president, Prof. W. A. Kellerman of the University of Ohio, for vice-president, and Prof. T. H. McBride, of the University of Iowa for secretary. They were elected unanimously.

Papers were then read by Mrs. E. G. Britton, Dr. B. D. Halsted, Mr. F. V. Coville, Dr. N. L. Britton, Dr. J. C. Arthur, and Dr. L. M. Underwood.

The following motion presented by Dr. Britton was approved:

"That Dr. Lucien M. Underwood be delegated to represent this association of American botanists at the International Botanical Congress to be held at Genoa, Italy, Sept. 4-11, 1892."

A committee of three was then appointed to obtain funds by subscription to defray the expenses of the delegate. Drs. J. M. Coulter, W. P. Wilson and E. F. Smith were named such committee.

MONDAY, August 22d, 1:00 P. M.:

The club was called to order with vice-president Wilson in the chair. The committee on plans for the next year's meeting presented a report recommending:

I. (1) That the officers of the section of botany for 1893 (vice-president and secretary) shall, together with one person to be chosen by the Botanical Club, constitute a committee to whom is referred the arrangement of a special program for the meeting of 1893.

(2) That this program shall include among other matters certain special topics selected by the committee.

(3) That each topic shall be introduced by a paper presented by some person to whom the topic has, with his consent, been assigned.

(4) That upon completion of the preliminary program and other arrangements a printed statement with an invitation to be present at the meeting be sent to both American and foreign botanists.

II. That a committee of three, of which Dr. N. L. Britton shall be chairman, be appointed to make such arrangements for special excursions at the close of the meeting as may be found practicable and desirable.

The matter of a new society of botanists, to more fully unify and subserve the botanical interests of the country, was next introduced by Prof. L. H. Bailey. After some discussion, showing a general belief that such a society was desirable, but with some doubts as to the advisability of establishing it at the present time, a committee of nine was appointed "to consider the formation of an American Botanical Society, after obtaining the views of the botanists of America on the proposition, and report thereon at the meeting of the Club next year."

Papers were read by Mrs. E. G. Britton, Mr. A. A. Crozier, Dr. W. P. Wilson and Dr. N. L. Britton.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23d, 1:30 P. M.:

Acting President Wilson announced the following committees: On program for Madison meeting, Chas. E. Bessey, Frederick V. Coville and Chas. R. Barnes; on botanical excursions at the close of the Madison meeting, N. L. Britton, Wm. Trelease and Douglass H. Campbell; on the establishment of an American Botanical Society, L. H. Bailey, W. G. Farlow, Emily L. Gregory, Byron D. Halsted, James Fletcher, Douglass H. Campbell, Charles R. Barnes, F. Lamson-Scribner and Lester F. Ward. On motion of Dr. Britton the name of W. P. Wilson was added to the last committee.

The committee on the use of certain topographical terms brought to the attention of the Club by Mr. Coville on the first day of the session, reported through its chairman, Mr. B. E. Fernow, that a unanimous decision had not yet been reached. On motion the committee was continued to report at the next year's meeting.

Papers were read by Mrs. Wolcott and Mr. Chas. Mohr. The Club adjourned to meet at Madison, Wisconsin, in 1893.

COMMENTS.

The attendance upon the meetings of the Club throughout was excellent, quite equaling that of the Section of Biology. Many more papers were listed than could be read for want of time, and others would doubtless have been presented if the authors had seen any probability of gaining a hearing. Never in the history of the Club have so many matters of general interest, which may be grouped under the caption of "business," come before the Club for decision. In fact the time

consumed in transacting business, although conserved to the utmost by the watchfulness of the chair, and the assistance of committees, seriously interfered with the reading of papers, and introduced an element of irregularity and uncertainty into the program that detracted somewhat from the general interest which usually centers upon the hearing of papers and their discussion. Hereafter matters of this class will doubtless largely come before the newly formed Section of Botany.

If the business brought before this meeting was considerable and somewhat burdensome, it is pleasant to reflect that for the most part it sustained more than usually important relations to the general welfare of American botanical science, and that the large number of able and representative men present must go far toward insuring approval of the decisions from other botanists, who had not the privilege of being in attendance. The full list of botanists present can not be given for want of space, but a few may be mentioned, viz: L. H. Bailey, Cornell Univ. N. Y.; W. J. Beal, Mich. Agr. Coll.; N. L. Britton, Columbia Coll., N. Y.; Mrs. E. G. Britton, N. Y.; O. F. Cook, N. Y.; J. M. Coulter, Ind. Univ.; J. C. Arthur, Purdue Univ., Ind.; C. R. Barnes, Univ. of Wis.; F. V. Coville, U. S. Div. of Botany; W. R. Dudley, Leland Stanford Univ., Cal.; D. G. Fairchild, U. S. Div. of Veg. Path.; B. E. Fernow, U. S. Div. of Forestry; B. D. Halsted, N. J. Exper. Station; Arthur Hollick, N. Y.; W. A. Kellerman, Univ. of Ohio; T. H. McBride, Univ. of Iowa; Charles Mohr, Ala.; Thomas Morong, Columbia Coll., N. Y.; B. L. Robinson, Harvard Univ., Mass.; H. H. Rusby, Coll. of Pharmacy, N. Y.; H. L. Russell, Univ. of Chicago, Ill.; F. L. Scribner, Univ. of Tenn.; E. F. Smith, U. S. Div. of Veg. Path.; G. B. Sudworth, U. S. Div. of Forestry; W. T. Swingle, U. S. Div. of Veg. Path.; M. B. Thomas, Wabash Coll., Ind.; Wm. Trelease, Mo. Bot. Garden; L. M. Underwood, De Pauw Univ., Ind.; Geo. Vasey, U. S. Div. of Botany; M. B. Waite, U. S. Div. of Veg. Path.; L. F. Ward, Smithsonian Inst., D. C.; and W. P. Wilson, Univ. of Penn.